

REMARKS

This paper is submitted in response to the pending Office Action mailed on March 7, 2006. Because this Response is submitted with a certificate of mailing in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.8 on or before the shortened statutory period for reply set to expire on **June 7, 2006**, this Response is timely filed.

While Applicant believes that no additional fees are due in connection with this application and Response, Applicant directs the Office to charge **Deposit Account No. 02-1818** for any fees deemed owed during the pendency of this application, excluding the issue fee.

I. INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Applicant wishes to thank Examiner Vijayakumar for the help and cooperation afforded Applicant's representative Matthew T. Ridsdale, Reg. No. 56,832, during the telephonic interview conducted on June 6, 2006. Applicant's representative and Examiner Vijayakumar discussed the pending and allowed claims, the relied upon references and possible strategies for continued prosecution. Examiner Vijayakumar's comments regarding the pending claims are greatly appreciated and have provided Applicant with a deeper understanding of the Examiner's position and concerns. In light of these discussions, Applicant submits that claims 51 to 60 are now in condition for allowance.

II. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Prior to this Response, claims 42 to 61 were pending and at issue, with claims 51 to 58 indicated to be allowable and 61 being objected to as depending from a non-allowable base claim. By this Response, claims 1 to 50 and 61 have been canceled without disclaimer. Claim 59 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 61. No new claims or additional subject matter has been added via this Response. Applicant wishes to expressly preserve the right to refile and argue the patentability of the subject matter of the canceled claims 1 to 50 in one or more related applications. Thus, Applicant submits that claims 51 to 60 are pending, at issue and allowable in this application.

III. CLAIM REJECTIONS

The pending Office Action rejects: claims 42 to 45, 48 and 50 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,340,641 to Xu ("Xu"); and claims 42, 45

to 50 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,671,984 to Maeda et al. ("*Maeda*").

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections of original claims 42 to 50 and 59 to 61 as anticipated by and/or obvious over one *Xu* or *Maeda*, either alone or in any combination. In particular, Applicant submits that in light of the cancellation, without disclaimer, of claims 42 to 50, the pending rejections have been rendered moot. Withdrawal of these rejections is therefore respectfully requested.

Applicant further submits that in light of the telephonic conference conducted on June 6, 2006, the pending claims 51 to 60 are patentable over any combination of the cited references.

IV. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the pending rejections and submits that the above-identified patent application is now in condition for allowance and earnestly solicits reconsideration of same. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned if he can assist in any way in expediting prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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